

# Setting the Record Straight — H.R. 2069

## Fostering Stable Housing Opportunities Act

The Fostering Stable Housing Opportunities Act (FSHO) prioritizes housing assistance for youth who have aged out of foster care and are at-risk of homelessness. **Here's the reality, from FSHO's legislative text, on the "self-sufficiency" requirement, which ensures that youth are actively engaged and setting themselves up to transition successfully into independence.** Local Public Housing Agencies (PHAs), in consultation with public child welfare agencies (PCWAs), will select one of the following options to implement.

### **Option #1: Youth satisfy one of the following criteria<sup>1</sup>—**

- Participating in **education** [(a) pursuing a high school diploma, GED, or postsecondary credential; or (b) enrolled in an institution of higher education as defined in statute]; or
- Participating in **workforce development**.
- At their discretion, PHAs may also consider employment as satisfying this Option.

### **Option #2: Youth comply with terms & conditions applicable under the Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) program, if offered by the PHA.**

- FSS was [endorsed](#) by organizations like the National Low Income Housing Coalition (NLIHC) last year.

### **Option #3: Using any combination of criteria listed in Options #1 – #2, local PHAs may design (or ask local workforce development agencies to assist in designing) their own self-sufficiency/active engagement requirement.**

**Exemptions:** The youth is— (a) incapable of complying with the requirement due to a documented medical condition; (b) a parent responsible for care of dependent child under 6; or (c) a regular, active participant in a drug/alcohol rehabilitation program.

**Grace Period:** Additionally, FSHO offers assisted foster alumni an **initial 30-month** grace period, during which they are exempt from compliance.

*“To ensure that youth homelessness is a brief and rare occurrence and that youth have the tools necessary to be self-sufficient, completion of educational and vocational training activities can be particularly important. The foster care system is a well-known pipeline for youth homelessness and how states address the education of those in foster care is indicative of their commitment to more broadly prevent and end youth homelessness.” —[State Index on Youth Homelessness 2018](#) (True Colors Fund in partnership with the National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty)*

For more information, or to cosponsor, please contact Dan Hare on Rep. Turner's staff via [e-mail](#) or phone at 5-6465.

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<sup>1</sup> Modeled after the requirements instituted for extended foster care pursuant to the bipartisan [Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008](#) (Pub. L. [110-351](#)).